



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/441,083	11/16/1999	KIYOSHI SUKEGAWA	1614.1011	3835
21171 7590 07/26/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER TRAN, DZUNG D	
			ART UNIT 2613	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/441,083

Applicant(s)

SUKEGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Dzung D. Tran

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-17 and 19-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jennings et al. US publication no. 2002/0015200 in view of Koga et al. US patent no. 5,995,254.

In considering claim 18, Jennings discloses a system and method for monitoring and characterizing optical links, the transmission line monitoring comprising:

a first optical dividing unit (figure 2, element 128, paragraph 0016, line 7) to demultiplex said first coupled signal (λ_1 , λ_2) from said optical coupling unit so as to divide and split said first coupled signal (λ_1 , λ_2) into said down data signal with the first wavelength (λ_2) and said examination signal with the second wavelength (λ_1), said examination signal (λ_1) being return;

a second optical coupling unit (figure 2, element 130, paragraph 0016, line 9) which couples an up data signal with the third wavelength (λ_3) and said examination

signal (λ_1) from said first optical dividing unit 128 so as to transmit a second coupled signal (λ_1, λ_3) toward a host apparatus;

a second optical dividing unit (figure 2, element 126, paragraph 0017, line 9) to demultiplex said second coupled signal (λ_1, λ_3) from said second optical coupling unit 130 so as to divide said second coupled signal (λ_1, λ_3) into said up data signal with the first wavelength (λ_3) and said examination signal with the second wavelength (λ_1); a monitoring shelf unit 122 which monitors and determined a fault and a exact location of said fault by using said examination signal with the second wavelength λ_1 (page 2, paragraphs 0018, 0019). Jennings differs from claim 18 of the present invention in that Jennings does not specifically disclose a specific wavelength (for example λ_2) for an up data signal (e.g. the invention claimed the up data signal of the first wavelength λ_2) and wherein the first optical coupling unit, said first optical dividing unit, said second optical coupling unit, and said second optical dividing unit are formed of passive elements.

Koga discloses a DWM light transmitting system which can monitor its transmission line (abstract) having the same wavelength (λ_1) for transmitting the down data signal and up data signal (figure 2). Since the down data signal and up data signal is transmitting through different links (e.g. up line and down line) and therefore no interference between down data signal and up data signal, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention was made to include the teaching of Koga in the transmission line monitoring of Jennings. One of an ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do that in order to use the same components (e.g. same LED

Art Unit: 2613

for outputting same wavelength, or filter for filtering the same wavelength) through out the system, thus it reducing maintenance costs associated with the system.

3. Claims 1, 3-17 and 19-24 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments that the cited references do not teach or suggest for monitoring an exact location of fault. However, as the rejection of claim 18, Jennings discloses a monitoring shelf unit 122 which monitors and determined a fault and a exact location of said fault by using said examination signal with the second wavelength λ_1 (page 2, paragraphs 0018, 0019).

Conclusion

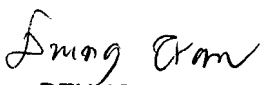
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dzung D Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3025. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2613

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dzung Tran
07/15/2007


DZUNG TRAN
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER